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March 22, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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BPL
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Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Please find enclosed a copy of correspondence recently directed to my attention by a constituent. I believe you will find its contents self-explanatory.

I simply wish to inquire about the possible national security threat raised within the enclosed correspondence. Can any validity be found in this concern, and if so, how was it addressed during Commission deliberations regarding broadband over power line?

I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I ask that you please direct any reply to my Knoxville office at the above address and hope you will not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of further assistance.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
Member of Congress

JJD:ml

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6 APR 2004 RCVD

Bradley, Jenni

From: writerep
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2004 11:34 PM
To: tn02wyr
Subject: WriteRep Responses

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To The Honorable John J. Duncan Jr.

Thank you for your frequent replies to my emails. Today, I have a serious concern that is on the level of National Security that I though you should be made aware. The FCC recently approved a new form of digital communications that will bring the internet into our homes over existing 60Hz AC power lines. This is known as Broadband over Power Line (BPL) and development was recently stopped in Japan because of widespread interference to their shortwave communications.

Apparently the political push to get more internet capabilities into our homes is driving this new form of internet communications. The largest organization opposing BPL is the Amateur Radio Community because of the concern of interference to short wave communications. This will be a true consequence of BPL but to my best knowledge the real danger has actually been overlooked. If BPL is allowed to continue the resulting increase in shortwave interference in the US will allow terrorists to communicate overseas and our receivers will be deafened by our local increase in interference! This is a serious threat to our nation's security and I thought you might like to be made aware of this potential danger before the FCC allows BPL to develop further. There are a number of physicists at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and many other internationally recognized laboratories with extensive knowledge in power line transmission who could educate the FCC on these issues. I suggest starting with the RF group at the ORNL Fusion Evergy Division. My guess is that the majority of people really aware of the plans for BPL are amateurs who have been so concerned with the potential impact to their hobby that the true threat has been overlooked, but unfortunately both are facing serious consequences if BPL is allowed to continue. Remember that power lines were designed to work at 60 Hertz and not short wave frequencies (2 MHz to 30 MHz) proposed for use in BPL. As an example, I once had a conversation to Europe on short wave using a ladder line (two parallel wires much like the AC lines) with no antenna attached to the end so I am experimentally well versed on radio wave losses from transmission lines. I sincerely hope you will take this threat seriously.

Sincerely,